

military police company from a headquarters detachment of a combat engineer unit. It came about as a result of force structure changes within the Kentucky Army National Guard, quite apart from the war.

The company strength is currently close to 175 soldiers deployed in theater right now with about 80 in the rear detachment. The soldiers of the 617th are employed in the civilian sector with varying occupations that all of us in this body, back in our communities, those watching on C-SPAN can relate to: school teachers, law enforcement officers, nurses, retail sales and management, information technology professionals, college students, even an attorney.

On 16 November of 2004, after completing training and validation at Fort McCoy, the unit departed for Iraq. The unit remains in Baghdad, and their principal purpose there is to conduct route security and convoy security, and they also support two Iraqi highway patrol stations as a backup, as a force to come alongside and to help these units stand up. The 617th has been very successful in their mission, as evidenced by the achievement and the valor of their soldiers who are willing to stay the course, who understand the importance of this mission, who see the fruits and the potential of their service and their sacrifice and that of their comrades. Soldiers in this unit have received three Silver Star Medals; three Bronze Star Medals for Valor; four Army Commendation Medals for Valor; and, additionally, 15 soldiers have received 17 Purple Hearts.

This is not about counting medals; but when a unit has that level of achievement, that speaks to discipline, to esprit, to integrity, to the acceptance and the inculcation of a sense of duty that is being acted out every day that brings great honor to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to the United States of America, and to the United States Army. And I thank those members of the unit.

I would like to recognize some who distinguish themselves. One of the things that I learned in the military is what one friend said who won the Congressional Medal of Honor, which is, the valor, the commitment, and the discipline and courage of a man or woman is not measured by what they wear on their chest but some who were in a certain place at a certain time who received that recognition. I believe if we were to talk to these soldiers, they would point that out, that they were just there to help their buddies to accomplish that mission and they did what they believed was their duty, that any of their fellow soldiers would have done as well.

First, I would like to recognize Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester of Nashville, Tennessee. She joined the Guard on April 20, 2001. She was awarded the Silver Star for Valor in Combat. Staff Sergeant Timothy Nein of Henryville, Indiana, joined the Kentucky National

Guard on November 26, 1996, was awarded the Silver Star for Valor. Sergeant Dustin Morris of Murray, Kentucky, joined the Kentucky Army National Guard as a junior in high school under the split option program. This week, as I speak of that, it reminds me of my own journey into the Army, enlisting 29 years ago on June 21. I look at the sacrifices of these young people. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal V device for Valor.

Specialist Casey Cooper of Eddyville, Kentucky, joined the Kentucky National Guard after completing 2 years of college at Murray State University, awarded the Bronze Star Medal with V device for Valor. Specialist Jason Mike of Radcliff, Kentucky, joined the Kentucky National Guard after September 17, "to give back to my country," he said. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with V device for Valor.

Specialist Jesse Ordunez of Gilbertsville, Kentucky, joined the Kentucky Army National Guard in March of 2000, awarded the Army Commendation Medal with V device for Valor. And, finally, Specialist Ashley Pullen of Edmonton, Kentucky, joined the Kentucky Army National Guard on December 19, 2001, at the age of 17, the same age I was when I enlisted 29 years ago while still attending high school. His award was the Bronze Star with V device for Valor.

When I look at the commitment and the service of these young people, with their sense of duty and commitment, as they stand literally at the tip of spear to preserve our freedom, I am thankful that they are there, that Americans can sleep well and safely tonight as we stand with Iraqi people to see a successful mission as we accept that duty and stand with resolve.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2474. A letter from the Director, Legislative Affairs Staff, NRCS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Conservation Security Program (RIN: 0578-AA36) received June 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2475. A letter from the Director, Office of Executive Secretariat, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Conforming Amendments to Implement the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (RIN: 1076-AE54) received June 7, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2476. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

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2478. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacan-

cies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2479. A letter from the Chairman, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting the Authority's Annual Performance Report for FY 2004, in accordance with the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993; to the Committee on Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. PUTNAM: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 345. Resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-159). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mrs. CAPITO: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 346. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2864) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-160). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HYDE (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 3100. A bill to authorize measures to deter arms transfers by foreign countries to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. KUHL of New York (for himself, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. REYNOLDS, and Mr. HIGGINS):

H.R. 3101. A bill to authorize the United States Department of Energy to remediate the Western New York Nuclear Service Center in the Town of Ashford, New York, and dispose of nuclear waste; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Mr. OBEY):

H.R. 3102. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2005 for veterans medical services; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 3103. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to submit a report outlining the steps taken and plans made by the United States to end Turkey's blockade of Armenia; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 3104. A bill to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science, and Resources, for